

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2006**Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:**

The Arizona Early Intervention Program used the following data sources for completing this indicator:

- Arizona's December 1, 2006 Table 1, Report of Infants and Toddlers Receiving Early Intervention Services data reported to OSEP;
- Arizona's Monthly Ages at Events, Initial Planning Process data for October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 and October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007;
- OSEP Table 7.1. Percentage of all children under the age of one (without at risk) receiving services, December 1, 2006 under IDEA, Part C;
- OSEP Table 7.1. Percentage of all children under the age of three (without at risk) receiving services, December 1, 2006 under IDEA, Part C;
- OSEP Child Count Trend, 1998-2006; and
- OSEP Aggregate Number of Children Served, 1198-2006.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C/Child Find

Indicator 5: Percent of Infants and Toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to:

- A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions; and
- B. National data.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a) (3) (B) and 1442)

Measurement:

- A. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSP's) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to the same percent calculated of other States with similar (narrow, moderate or broad) eligibility definitions.
- B. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSP's) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to National data.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2006	.67%

Actual Target Data for FFY 2006: .60%

A. Comparison to other States with narrow eligibility requirements:

Rank	State	Percentage of infants under 1
1	North Dakota	1.96%
2	Idaho	1.70%
3	Oklahoma	1.29%
4	Connecticut	1.13%
5	Montana	0.96%
6	South Carolina	0.82%
7	Nebraska	0.71%
8	Tennessee	0.70%
9	Utah	0.70%
10	Nevada	0.68%
11	Oregon	0.67%
12	Maine	0.62%
13	District of Columbia	0.61%
14	Arizona	0.60%
15	Georgia	0.45%

B. Comparison to National Data:

	2006 Percentage of population served
National	1.06%
Arizona	0.60%

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for FFY 2006:

Arizona's actual child count data for infants under one year of age (.60%) is below the target of .67% for the report year 2006-2007.

While 40% (6/15) of Arizona counties made progress between FFY2005 and FFY 2006, 40% (6/15) experienced slippage and 20% (3/15) remained static during the same time period. It must be noted however, that 8% (429/5,299) of the children identified in Arizona's December 1 child count did not have a county designation in their records, and therefore could not be attributed to any one of the 15 counties.

Problems with Arizona's 2006 child count data collection, processing, and measurement were identified in January 2007. The parameters that were being used to identify a child as an eligible child with an active IFSP were incorrectly eliminating some children who were being provided services under Part C. In addition, initial IFSP dates were being used to identify "active" IFSPs, rather than current IFSP dates; therefore, children whose current record did not contain an initial IFSP date were not counted. This problem was initially addressed in March – June 2007 by revising the data system's child count data parameters, re-running the child count reports, and submitting revised reports to OSEP in July 2007. However, there remained a number of records that contained insufficient data to include them in the count, and therefore Arizona's birth to one count may be under-reported.

Overall, while Arizona's population grew at a rate of 5.4%, Arizona experienced a slight decline in the number of referrals of children birth to 1, a decline in the number of children birth to 1 determined eligible, and a decline in the percentage of children who completed the eligibility process. The slippage, 10% to 2.2%, experienced by the six (6) counties far outweighed the progress made (.03% to .46%) in the other counties. For 2006, a growth of slightly over one percent was indicated in both the child count trend data and aggregate number of children served data for Arizona. There was no single consistent factor that resulted in the slippage experienced by the six counties.

Progress made by counties in serving children birth to 1 resulted in increases ranging from .03% to .46%.

Progress/Slippage in Number of Birth to 1 Served		
County	2005	2006
Apache	1.12%	0.60%
Cochise	0.40%	0.40%
Coconino	0.90%	0.80%
Gila	0.50%	0.70%
Graham	1.10%	1.30%
Greenlee	3.10%	0.90%
La Paz	1.00%	1.30%
Maricopa	0.46%	0.49%
Mohave	0.40%	0.50%
Navajo	0.44%	0.90%
Pima	0.90%	0.90%
Pinal	1.47%	0.70%
Santa Cruz	0.50%	0.30%
Yavapai	0.60%	0.42%
Yuma	0.40%	0.40%

The county that experienced the most slippage (Greenlee with 2.2%) saw a slight reduction in population. Other factors that may help explain the cause of the slippage (i.e., the number of referrals, the number of children determined eligible, the percentage of children under 1 who did not complete the eligibility process) are unavailable due to the bundling of data with two other counties served by the IPP contractor. One county (Graham), made progress, increasing the number of children served from 1.10% to 1.30%. The other county (Cochise) remained static at .40%.

Training on evaluating and assessing very young infants was provided to all counties between April 18, 2007 and September 6, 2007. Data revealed that six out of fifteen counties increased the number of children, birth to 1, determined eligible for early intervention services within one to three months following the training. The county showing the greatest increase after training is in its monitoring cycle and is also receiving on-going technical assistance related to eligibility determination and the 45-day timeline. Variability in the interpretation of eligibility by the Division of Developmental Disabilities across all districts throughout the state continues to impede eligibility determination for very young infants. The 2007 child count data will be analyzed closely to determine whether the improvement is maintained and results in demonstrating progress.

Tracking and analysis of data related to the outcome of referrals for children under 1, compared to the outcome of referrals for children 1-2 and 2-3 years of age, began in FFY 2005. The data for FFY 2006 reveals that most children found eligible based on an established condition (66%) were less than 1 year of age, while the lowest percentage (20%) of children found eligible based on developmental delay were under the age of one. Thirty-one percent (31%) of parents with eligible children under the age of 1 declined an IFSP and the highest percentages (38%) of children who do not complete the evaluation/eligibility process after referral are also under the age of one.

APR Template – Part C (4)

Arizona
State

Of the 15 states identified with narrow eligibility rates, Arizona ranks 14th with regard to the percentage of the birth to 1 population served. Strategies utilized by states with narrow eligibility criteria similar to Arizona's that were identified as significant contributors to increases in appropriate referrals of infants birth to one year of age include: 1) extensive use of informed clinical opinion; 2) regular, coordinated regional child find screenings with collaboration between Part B & Part C personnel; 3) distribution of child development materials to parents after childbirth; 4) strong parent network that provides parent to parent support and public awareness; 5) strong relationships with NICU's and designated Part C contact for each; 6) dedicated position for Public Awareness and Child Find; and, 7) addition of premature infant criteria to narrow eligibility criteria.

Improvement Activities	Timelines	Status
Improvement strategies to support child find and service provision to infants 0-1.		
Target public awareness to primary referral sources about referring infants as required by IDEA, 2004.	December 2005 and ongoing	Completed and ongoing
Track and analyze data related to age of children found eligible for Part C compared to data related to age at referral.	December 2005 and ongoing	Completed and ongoing
Research strategies utilized by states with similar eligibility criteria for evaluating and assessing infants birth to 1.	July 2007	Completed
Implement evaluation strategies identified through research.	September 2007	Completed and ongoing
Develop and/or strengthen collaboration between AzEIP child find system and regional hospital Newborn Intensive Care system, including Newborn Intensive Care Units (NICUs), Newborn Follow-up, Healthy Steps and related programs.	July 2007 through December 2008	Ongoing
Conduct further drill-down of data, following up on questions and hypotheses that emerged from data analysis conducted 2005-2006.	April 2007 through December 2008	Ongoing

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets / Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources for FFY 2006:

Improvement Activities	Timelines	Resources
Develop and/or strengthen parent to parent support networks to enhance public awareness to primary referral sources regarding referral of infants as required by IDEA, 2004. New Activity identified through research of successful strategies in other states.	January 2008	Family Technical Assistance and Monitoring Specialist, DES/AzEIP staff

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Arizona
State

Collaborate with NICUs to develop referral procedures that will ensure timely receipt of medical records, discharge summaries, developmental evaluations, and other pertinent medical information that will assist teams in determining eligibility for infants discharged from NICUs. New Activity identified through research of successful strategies in other states	July 2008	DES/AzEIP staff, Technical Assistance and Monitoring Specialists
Collaborate with the Arizona Department of Education to conduct coordinated, regional public awareness and child find activities. New Activity identified through research of successful strategies in other states	July 2008	Family Technical Assistance and Monitoring Specialist, DES/AzEIP staff
Improve data collection related to child count. New Activity related to identification of data problem.	January 2008- January 2009	DES/AzEIP Staff, Technical Assistance and Monitoring Specialists, Agency partners
Conduct monthly review of submitted data for completeness and accuracy. New Activity related to identification of data problem.	January 2008 and ongoing	DES/AzEIP staff